

## What is a noisy animal?

### SECTION 15-7.H, ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE

It shall be unlawful for any person who owns, possesses or harbors any animal or bird to permit that animal or bird to create a frequent or continued noise disturbance across a real property boundary or within a nearby dwelling unit.

Any person convicted of this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by no more than \$1000.00 fine and/or thirty days in jail maximum.

### What is good about a barking dog?

- Alerts owners of potential problems
- Warns owners of a strangers presence
- Alerts neighbors to intruders when you are not home
- Indicates an animal is in distress

### What is bad about a barking dog?

- One dog barking usually starts another dog barking
- Excessive barking is extremely annoying and creates neighborhood arguments, resentments, etc.
- Usually indicates a bored or lonely animal
- Unless stopped, barking may develop into a type of hysteria
- Excessive barking can be harmful to dogs

## Do you own a nuisance dog?

Determine for yourself whether your dog is a good companion and watchdog or a neighborhood nuisance by asking yourself if your dog barks EXCESSIVELY when...

- Someone rings your doorbell?
- Mail carriers, paper carriers, etc. come to or go by your house?
- Children are playing outside?
- Another animal comes into view?
- You leave or return home?
- Left alone and lonely?

First, determine when and for how long your dog barks, and what's causing him to bark. Ask your neighbors what they see and hear, drive or walk around the block and listen for a while. With a little effort you should be able to figure out which of the common problems mentioned above is causing your dog to bark.

### Your dog may be barking because...

- He's bored and lonely.  
Recommendations: Walk your dog at least twice daily--it's good exercise physically and mentally. Take an obedience class with your dog. Provide interesting toys to keep your dog busy when you're not home.
- He's guarding his territory.  
Recommendations: Teach your dog a "quiet" command. Desensitize your dog to the stimulus that triggers the barking. Have your dog neutered or spayed to decrease territorial behavior.

- He is afraid of something.  
Recommendations: Identify what's frightening your dog and desensitize him to it. Mute noise from the outside by leaving your dog in a comfortable area and leave on a television, radio or loud fan. Block off your dogs' access to outdoor views that might be causing a fear response.
- He is suffering from separation anxiety. Your dog may be barking due to separation anxiety if the barking occurs only when you're gone and starts as soon as, or shortly after, you leave.  
Recommendations: Please ask for our tip sheet on separation anxiety.

## THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS

As a dog owner, you know the companionship, loyalty, love and fun that your dog adds to your life, but you must also realize your responsibility toward your neighbors. Dog owners can be insensitive, at times, to their own barking dog. Put yourself in your neighbor's position to see how your dog's habits effect them. Excessive barking can be extremely annoying to neighbors as well as those who have to live with a noisy dog. The security of knowing you have a real watchdog, as well as enjoying a peaceful and quiet neighborhood, is well worth the effort.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT A NEIGHBOR'S BARKING DOG?

- First, try to contact the owner and work out a solution.
- If you are unsuccessful in working out a solution with a dog owner, contact the **Office of Code Enforcement (703-228-3232)** between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm; between the hours of 5:00 pm and 8:00 am, contact the **Arlington Police at 703-558-2222**.
- If the dog is being left outside for long periods of time, contact Animal Control at 703-931-9241. Animal Control will investigate to determine whether there is any violation of minimum housing requirements.
- If the above actions fail to resolve the problem, the complainant is advised to visit the magistrate at the Arlington County Police Department located at 1435 N. Courthouse Rd. The magistrate may issue a summons if he or she thinks there is adequate evidence to substantiate the claim of a noise ordinance violation.

### **Virginia State Code §3.2-6521 (A), Rabies inoculation of dogs and domesticated cats.**

The owner or custodian of all dogs and domesticated cats four months of age and older shall have them currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian ...The owner of the dog or the custodian of the domesticated cat shall furnish within a reasonable period of time, upon the request of an animal control officer, humane investigator, law enforcement officer, State Veterinarian's representative, or official of the Department of Health, the certificate of vaccination for such dog or cat. The vaccine used shall be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use in that species.

### **Arlington County Code §2-7, Dogs over six months old to be licensed.**

It shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian of any dog over six months old not to place or cause to be placed and kept around the neck of such dog a substantial collar and attach securely thereto the current Arlington County license and the current rabies vaccination tag issued for such dog.

For more information on purchasing a dog license; please visit:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Treasurer/TreasurerDogLicensing.aspx>

### **Animal Welfare League of Arlington**

2650 S Arlington Mill Dr  
Arlington, VA 22206  
(703) 931-9241  
[www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org)

# BARK! BARK! BARK!

## *What to Do About Barking Dogs*



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